Stop C. difficile Infections PSA (:60)

C. *difficile* is a germ that causes diarrhea linked to 14,000 deaths in the US each year. People who get medical care *and* take antibiotics are most at risk for infection, especially older adults. Identifying C. *difficile* infection early and stopping its spread can save lives.

Here are six steps for prevention in medical settings:

One - Prescribe antibiotics only when appropriate.

Two - Test for C. *difficile* when patients have diarrhea within several months of taking antibiotics.

Three - Isolate those who test positive.

Four – Since hand washing may not be sufficient and hand sanitizers don't kill C. *difficile* spores, wear gloves and gowns when treating infected patients.

Five - Disinfect treatment areas with products approved to kill C. difficile; and

Six - When patients are transferred, notify the new facility of C. difficile infection.

Learn more at www.cdc.gov.vitalsigns.